

Support for HB 6200

Dear Public Health Committee Member,

I am writing to ask for your support for H.B. 6200, An Act Concerning the Long-term use of Antibiotic Treatment of Lyme Disease. This act would allow physicians to prescribe, administer or dispense long-term antibiotics for therapeutic purposes to patients clinically diagnosed with Lyme disease

Over two years ago, my twenty-seven year old son was finally diagnosed with Lyme disease. It took us over nine months and twelve different doctors to finally find a Lyme Literate doctor who gave us the diagnosis and began long-term antibiotic treatment. We had to travel out of state for this help. After two years of treatment, my son is no longer bed-ridden and just this past week-end moved out of our house and is beginning the long journey to recover his life. I don't know where he would be today without the long-term antibiotic treatment.

My husband and I have spent a great portion of our retirement funds for doctors and medications which insurance companies will not cover. Getting insurance for an unemployed person who is ill is terribly expensive and the policy covers almost nothing.

Last fall a group in Madison previewed a film about Lyme disease at our local library. About 120 people attended the two showings. Because reservations were required, I had to opportunity to speak to almost all of the people who attended. I soon discovered that the only people who had been treated with long term antibiotics were the only ones getting better.

If doctors can treat patients with long term antibiotics, then more doctors can help people, more doctors will go into the field of treating Lyme disease and in the end more research can be done.

I thank you for reading this letter and hope you will do your best to help those who are suffering.

Sincerely,

Lynn Friedman

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